Animadverſions

ON

KING JAMES

HIS

LETTER

TO THE

POPE:

Publiſht in the TRYAL of

THE

Ld. Preſton & Mr. Aſhton.

LONDON,
Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1691.

plain

Animadverſions
ON
King *JAMES* His LETTER to the POPE.

LET Truth be never ſo evident, and Demonſtration never ſo manifeſt, yet Infidelity will too often keep its Ground, and ſome invincible Perſuaſions will ſtill perſiſt in that incorrigible Obſtinacy, that Right Reaſon ſhall have no ſway with them; and no proofs whatever ſhall evince their Rooted Errours. To come to the particular Caſe in Relation to this Kingdom, perhaps 'tis not the leaſt part of our National ſhame that there are too many of us to this very Day will never be induced to miſ-conſtrue the leaſt Grain of the late King *James* his Integrity to his Honour and Engagements for preſerving the Proteſtant Religion; that at leaſt all the Meaſures taken before his Departure, that look'd a little too induſtrious for the propagation of the Romiſh Religion, they will allow to be no more than a pardonable Zeal in him; and that the Utmoſt of his Deſigns were no more than a favouring and countenancing of his own Worſhip (a venial Frailty) in order to raiſe it above the Power of its profeſs'd Enemies; That his whole Ambition aim'd not at any farther Reach than to gain it an abſolute Toleration and Impunity by reſcinding the Laws againſt it; and that no other *Anguis in Herba*, no Uſurpation againſt, or Subverſion of the Proteſtant Religion eſtabliſht, was ever meant or intended by him; his whole Endeavours being no more than to give Popery thoſe innocent Advances of Freedom

and Liberty, without the leaſt-intended Aſſumption of any invaſive or compulſive Power whatſoever.

Nay, there are another ſort amongſt us, who though a little ſtaggered at ſome irregular Court-Heats in the laſt Reign, and cannot deny but they are convinced ('tis true) that over-perſwaded by too many violent Zealots about him, he was a little miſ-led, and indeed was puſhing ſomething too far in ſome unjuſtifiable Favours towards his own Romiſh Cauſe. However, if any ſuch Trips, or ſuch falſe Steps were then made, nevertheleſs their inviolable Deference, and Adherence to King *James*, inclining them to pardon ſmall Royal Faults, gives them at preſent ſo hearty a Good Wiſh for his Reſtoration to his Throne, as not in the leaſt to doubt, but his late Calamities befal'n him have moſt certainly quite changed his Reſolves; That the Miſeries he has underwent, and the too viſible Repugnance of this Kingdom againſt all Invaſions of Popery, (if ever God Almighty bleſſes him by a Reſtoration) have and muſt paſt all Diſpute have broken all his old falſe Meaſures, (whatever they might have been,) and that his late Wrack will for ever ſtand that warning Sea-mark, as never to venture again into the like Danger, for fear of ſplitting again upon the ſame Rock; and conſequently there can be no farther occaſion of either fearing or ſuſpecting him; and therefore they perſwade themſelves 'tis their Duty to be aſſiſtant to their utmoſt power for his Return; and this, though the heartieſt Poteſtants, without the leaſt ſhadow of diſ-intereſting their own Religion, they are in all Conſcience obliged to do; and which, their Confidence aſſures them, they ſhall never repent when done; but ſtand confirm'd in a full and perfect ſecurity of the ſafety of their Religion and Liberties, from the accompliſhment of ſo ſacred a Work as the re-mounting King *James* upon his Throne.

Now as there are but too many poor deluded Zealots for K. *James* that are to this day either wilfully or (to ſpeak more favourably) unhappily blinded by theſe miſtaken Opinions, perhaps there never

never appear'd a more visible Confutation of their Erroneous Credulity in Favour towards him, then in his Letter to the *Pope*, annexed to, and Publish'd with the Tryals of the Lord *Preston* and Mr. *Ashton*, *&c.* Upon which I shall make some few Remarks.

First, For the Authority and undeniable Truth of the Letter. *It was found written in Latin, enter'd upon Record in the Register taken at* Dublin, *bearing Date*, Dublin *26th. of* November. 1689. *With a Marginal Note recorded likewise in the same Register*: That the Original Letter was all writ by *K. James* his own Hand.

Here before we enter upon the Letter it self, 'tis to be observed what affectation of Glory, what Triumph there is in a *Romish Bigot*, a true Son of Mother Church, in the least Atchievement for, or promotion of Her Darling Cause.

'Twas not enough belike, that such a Letter was written in Latin (the usual Language of Addresses to the *Pope*) and no wonder, to gain it ampler Credence, and give it the fairer stamp of Authority, all Originally writ by K. *James* his own hand; and consequently (one would think) it had done its whole Work, by being sent to, and received by the *Pope*. But at the same time, this Zealous piece of Romish Service in King *James*, to His Fames Eternal Monument, must be afterwards Enter'd and Register'd upon Record, on purpose to be transmitted to Posterity, with that particular Justice done him of a peculiar Marginal Note, *that it was all writ with his own hand.*

Moſt Holy Father,

WE did by the Earl of Melfort, Our Principal Secretary of State, ſignifie to Your Holineſs the Joy we had in Your Promotion to the Sacred Chair. And thoſe Letters which Your Holineſs did with Your own Hand write Us, were ſuch Teſtimonies of Fatherly Love, and of Your tender Compaſſion for what We ſuffer, that they have leſſened the Senſe of Our Calamity, and have proved of real Conſolation to us.—

Remark.

Here we ſee the firſt part is His joyful Congratulation of His Holineſs's Promotion to the ſacred Chair, which, though at firſt reading, may appear no more than a cuſtomary Complement, as being dated 26*th.* of *November.* 89. and thereby written juſt upon the *Popes* Acceſſion to the Papacy. However, as the whole Outcry of the Romiſh Party, at the *Pope*'s firſt Inſtauration, roar'd high, and bellowed loud, with a confident aſſurance of a *Frenchified Pope*, to no leſs than almoſt a publick Abjuration of the little leſs than Heretical *Pope Innocent*, his dead Predeceſſor, the Papiſts themſelves (the *French* and *Engliſh* ones at leaſt) reſolved if poſſible, even to Abdicate his hated Memory. Upon this univerſal Preſumption of the then new *Popes* Affections, undoubtedly the tranſported K. *James* felt ſome part of their common Titillation; and this Careſs to his New-made Holineſs, bore ſomething of more than ordinary Patheticks in it, to ſo hopeful and promiſing an Apoſtolick Succeſſor. And the Teſtimonies of Fatherly Love, and tender Compaſſion of King

King *James* his ſufferings expreſs'd in the *Pope*'s Letters to King *James*, under the aforementioned Preſumption of His Holineſs's Inclinations, unqueſtionably brought him the real conſolation the Letter deſcribes.

Letter.

The only ſource of all theſe Rebellions againſt Us is, That We embraced the Catholick Faith; and do not diſown, but that to ſpread the ſame, not only in Our Three Kingdoms, but over all the diſperſed Colonies of Our Subjects in America, *was Our Determination.* —

Remark.

The only Source of theſe Rebellions againſt him (he ſays) is that he embraced the Catholick Faith, &c. That I am afraid is a notorious Miſtake; for his embracing the Romiſh [Catholick] (as he calls it) Faith, was ſo far from raiſing any thing like Rebellion againſt him; that notwithſtanding the Nations Conviction of his adhereing to that Perſwaſion before his Acceſſion to the Crown, not only the throwing out of the Excluſion Bill, that ſo fremuouſly aſſerted his Right, and open'd his Acceſs to the Throne; *but likewiſe the Univerſal Fealty, and indeed even Paſſionate tenderneſs towards him at his Acceſs to the Throne,* notwithſtanding his publiſh'd Religion; ſufficiently demonſtrate that a Rebellion againſt him, was fartheſt from the Principles or thoughts of his truely Loyal and Proteſtant Subjects.

Indeed, when he plainly declares, and which the Nation too plainly ſaw, after he once grew warm in the Imperial Seat, he reſolved and determined to ſpread his Religion, not only through his three Kingdoms, but likewiſe through his Territories in the *American* World

too; possibly a little abatement of that first, Heat and Love towards him might lessen our fond Affections, at least in that part of Mankind, that could in Conscience do no less than have some reasonable Reluctance against the notorious Violation of what ought to be most sacred, the repeated Vows and Protestations (the obligation of a Coronation Oath not excepted) of his performing what was never intended; together with some small Concern for a Religion and Liberty so near and so dear to them, at that time under such undeniable Dangers of being undermined and supplanted.

But as great an abhorrence as all good People had of such sinister Designs so apparently carried on against the *English* Rights and Liberties, and as much as it might cool their Zeal for King *James*; how unjustly we are charged with Rebellion against him, in any part of this happy Revolution, has been already proved by larger and more learned Discourses on that Theam.

Letter.

— *To manifest this, there will need no other Proof then to see how lately we have proceeded in this Kingdom; for as we have often beaten the Rebels in small Parties, (which might have been one compleat Victory, if they had not obstinately declined to give Us Battle) so we have still turn'd all to the advantage of Religion, and hope very soon to see it here firmly Established.* —

Remark.

To manifest his Determination of establishing Popery in that Kingdom, he might have pleaded a great deal further back for his Proofs then his *late* proceedings there; for from the very beginning of his Reign, the

Measures

Measures taken in that Kingdom, have been so barefaced, as every Eye might see into; the barbarous turning out of all Protestants there from all Trust either Civil or Military, even to cashiering every private Heretick Sentinel, speaks but too plain. Barbarous, I may very well call it, when with so much horrid and shameful injustice and Rapine the Protestants were dispossest of all Command and Trust, (for what end is too plain) though their very Places were *bought*, and by the Government allowed to be so, without the least restitution or satisfaction whatever made them: And the same Seizure that thought their Commands and Places lawful *Prize*, brought the Heretical Money that paid for 'em under the same Condemnation.

I am afraid his *frequently beating the Rebels in small Parties, & his assurance of his compleater Victory, if offer'd Battel*, were only a Temporary confidence in him; the said Assurance not always continuing; witness the planting of Horses before hand, and his early, if not overhasty posting Sea-ward before the Battel of the *Boyne*.

Letter. — *Nor will it look hard, if aided by some Subsidies, to compass the same in our other Dominions, as soon as by Gods Favour We shall be restored, seeing our People do so ill bear the Usurpers Yoke, and so universally long for Our Return.* —

Remark. Here the Bolt's struck home; 'Tis not his loss of Three Kingdoms, not all his at present defeated Designs, with all their attending Calamities, wholly owing to no other Original, if once so blest as to remount his Throne, shall deter him from taking up the

Old-broken Cudgels, and venturing a second wrestle though for a second Fall in so meritorious a Cause. Dethronement, Abdication, nothing shall bar the continuance of his Fidelity to that (I dare not say,) only sworn, but at least only binding Oath, the Romish Restoration. And truly, not to enlarge upon this Topick, he has not only been always too fast a Devote to *France*, but under his present Obligations to that Prince, (if possibly, (as Heaven forbid,) restor'd to these Kingdoms,) so much a Dependant on that Monarch that besides his natural Propensity of not easily forgiving Injuries, and consequently not being over-tender of lashing the Backs of a Rebellious, (as he calls 'em,) Heretick Nation; yet even supposing a more then Popish Miracle, his Abjuration of all forgotten Resentments against them, a Beam of Mercy we must hardly look for, even in spight of himself, his Tenure under *France*, his Royal Lieutenancy to the Great *Lord*, (the highest Post he can hope for,) as the sad Sufferings of the poor inoffensive Hereticks on the other side the *Herring-pond* point to us, will tye him up to no extraordinary Clemency to the more Capital Ones on this side.

The latter part, *viz.* the Peoples uneasie bearing of the Usurpers Yoke, (as he calls him,) and the Universallity of their longings for his own Return; perhaps upon due Examination, whatever his Intelligence has been of their Inclinations, possibly is not the first Mistake that poor Prince has been flatter'd into.

Letter. — *It would promote this Work, if a general Peace were treated amongst the Catholick Princes, or a Truce at least,*

in

in case the Time be too short for the other; for this would put an end to those Calamities begun in Germany, *and where the Hereticks now lye gnawing in the very Bowels of the Church.*—

Remark. This Paragraph pushes the Romish Zeal a little further than the concern of his own Three Kingdoms, and his *American* Colonies; the poor Indulgence of the Reform'd Religion, is an Eye-sore to him all the World over; and he cannot forbear his extraordinary Devotion even beyond his own Dominions, for rooting (as his own Secretary *Coleman* told us,) the pestilent *Northern Heresy* from the Face of the Earth, as gnawing, to his no small Anguish, in the very Bowels of the Church.

Letter.—*But what need we speak on this subject, where the Things themselves are so loud, and implore your Aid: The Apostolick Zeal of your Holiness must find out Remedies fit for these Evils; and in full confidence thereof, we beseech God to give Your Holiness a long and a happy Reign: And we being with all Love and filial Observance prostrate at your Feet, do beg Your Apostolical Benediction.* Given at Our Castle at *Dublin* this 26*th.* of *Novemb.* 1689.—

Remark. Thus ends this promising and imploring Epistle to the Pope. What ready Performances he engages on his own part for the Romish Cause, We have but too much Reason to believe, were, and are heartily intended; and will undoubtedly, if Power be ever equal to good Will, be as heartily put in execution. The implored Assistance on the other side to carry

ry on this work, 'tis thought has not been so zealously lent as desired; the Princes of the Empire, tho' of his own Faith, nay the Pope himself, especially *Innocent* his Predecessor, not thinking it worth their while to use their Mediation with their Catholick Sons, either for patching up a Peace or a Truce with *France*, after such impardonable Injuries receiv'd by them from that common Disturber of *Europe*, on so poor an Account as the Re-establishing of a Prince so mixt and link'd in the *French* Interests, as he has scarce room left for their Pity; nor is it the meanest Jewel in the Crown of our Great and truly Protestant Defender of the Faith, the Glorious King *William*, to be the selected Darling of Mankind, to sit President of the Great Council of *Europe*, chosen by those Princes of a contrary Persuasion to be their Leading Worthy.

FINIS.